

Abstract

Role search apparatus for grouping nodes according to relationships with other nodes, the apparatus comprising: an input for receiving an arrangement of nodes said arrangement comprising at least two partitions of said nodes and with predetermined relationships between nodes across said partitions, and a pattern recognition unit associated with said input, for using pattern recognition on said nodes and said relationships to find relationship patterns amongst said nodes, thereby to form at least one group from nodes of a first of said partitions, wherein said nodes being formed into said group share relationships with same ones of a predetermined number of nodes in a second partition.